



DeSoto County

Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

9:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner JC Deriso
Commissioner Judy Schaefer
Commissioner Steven Hickox
Commissioner Elton Langford
Commissioner Jerod Gross

TURN OFF OR SILENCE ALL CELL PHONES

PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Valerie Gilchrist, Desoto Ministerial Association gave the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Sheriff Potter of the Desoto County Sheriffs office, Susan Pooley Desoto County Tax Collector, Debbie Wertz the Supervisor of Elections and David Williams, Property Appraiser were all present.

SET/AMEND

A motion was made by Commissioner Gross, seconded by Commissioner Langford to amend the agenda by adding Agenda item 14.

PUBLIC FORUM FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ashley Brown Outreach Coordinator for Desoto County High School updated the board on the upcoming events for the Senior Graduation and the end of the school year. She informed the board about the VPK/child care program for the 2025/2026 school year at Nocatee and West Elementary, which will generate several job openings.

CONSENT AGENDA-MOTION TO APPROVE

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Gross, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

1. Minutes/BOCC Public Meeting 03-25-2025 and 04-08-2025

Attachments: [03-25-2025 BOCC Meeting](#)
[04-08-2025 BOCC Meeting](#)

2. Invoice/Ponger-Kays-Grady

Attachments: [Invoice.pdf](#)

3. Resolution / FDOT LAP Supplemental Agreement C.R. 661 over Bunker Creek Permanent Repairs

Attachments: [452692-2-58-01 Resolution Supplemental Agreement](#)
[452692-2 draft LAP Supp #1- approved](#)
Enactment No: 2025-032

REGULAR BUSINESS**4. Proclamation for Economic Development Week**

Attachments: [2025 Proclamation-Economic Development Week](#)

Sondra Guffey read the Proclamation into record to proclaim the week of May 11th - 17th as " Economic Development Week"

A motion was made by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Schaefer, that this Proclamation be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

5. Contract Award / Fiscal Year 2024/25 Annual Road Paving Project / Excavation Point, Inc.

Attachments: [25-13-00ITB Contract](#)
[25-13-00ITB Bid Tab](#)

Mike Giardullo presented a request to approve the 2024/2025 Annual Road Paving Project to Excavation Point, Inc. There was discussion as to cost for paving West Farm Rd, and how the shoulder be paved. There was further discussion on other project shortfalls as well as FDOT funding and how those funds can be applied to this and other projects.

A motion was made by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Hickox, that this agreement be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

6. Contract Award / Fiscal Year 2024/25 Annual Road Striping Project / McShea Contracting, LLC.

Attachments: [25-10-00ITB Contract](#)
[25-10-00ITB Bid Tabulation](#)

Mike Giardullo presented a request to approve the 2024/2025 Annual road Striping Project to MCShea Contracting, LLC.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schaefer, seconded by Commissioner Hickox, that this agreement be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

7. Change Order #5- SEMCO Construction- Mills Remodel

Attachments: [Mills Entrance Modifications \(DSS.1.2025\)](#)
[Change Order #5 Rev 1 - Entrance Modifications](#)
[Change Order Log](#)
[CR #9-Entrance Modifications Revised](#)
[Base Bid-SOV](#)
[CR #9A-Add Alt-Entrance Modifications Revised 05022025](#)
[Add Alternates- SOV Bollards Asphlt only](#)

Cindy Talamantez and Mike Giardullo present a request for change order # 5 Semco Construction -Mills Remodel. ADA upgrades to bring into compliance and make more safe and secure for the public. There was discussion as to the changes being made. There was discussion as to when the project will be completed with the new ADA changes. There is further discussion in regards to budgeting for furniture. Ms. Talamantez presented the board with slides outlining the current progress of the project. including a tentative opening date of mid-August.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hickox, seconded by Commissioner Schaefer, that this change order be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

8. Jones Edmunds/Agreement Amendment #2

Attachments: [Amendment No. 2](#)

Peggy Waters presented a request to approve the Agreement Amendment #2 with Jones Edmunds revising the Scope of Services and Fees to design and permit a leachate management system for the County Landfill . There was a discussion regarding the revision.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hickox, seconded by Commissioner Schaefer, that this agreement be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

9. Volvo EC220EL Crawler Excavator.

Attachments: [2018 Volvo EC220EL Crawler Escavator 05-13-2025.pdf](#)
[2018 Volvo EC220EL Crawler Escavator \(Comparative Quotes\) 05-13-2025.pdf](#)

Jeff Phipps presented a request for a Purchase Order in the amount of \$86,500 for a 2018 Volvo EC220EL Crawler Excavator. Mr. Hines discussed the landfill budget can absorb the full cost of the machine because a used semi-truck was purchased that would meet our needs instead of a new one as budgeted for. There was further discussion on how the excavator will be used.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hickox, seconded by Commissioner Schaefer, that the purchase order be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

10. Resolution/Budget Amendment Fiscal Year 2024/2025

Attachments: [Resolution](#)
 [Summary and Narrative](#)
 [2025-85 SHIP](#)
 [2025-90 Hurricane Ian](#)

Brian Wagner presented a request to adopt a Resolution /Budget Amendment Fiscal Year 2024/2025. The two amendments relate to SHIP to recognize additional program income and place in SHIP Reserves. And the Hurricane Ian Project # LFA452692 661 Bridge contract adjustment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gross, seconded by Commissioner Langford, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross
 Enactment No: 2025-033

11. Accounts and Warrants Drawn Per Schedule of Bills Payable.

Attachments: [AP Check Report - Warrants 04-08-25 to 04-21-25](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Gross, seconded by Commissioner Langford, that the accounts and warrants drawn be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Langford, and Gross
Recused: Hickox

12. Resolution / Roadside Memorial Placement in County Rights-of-Way

Attachments: [Resolution - Roadside Memorial \(tc\)](#)
 [Request Form Memorial Marker ATTACHMENT A](#)
 [Resolution Roadside Memorial Standard Marker \(tc\)](#)
 [Road Side Memorial ATTACHMENT B](#)

Mandy Hines request approval to adopt one of two Resolutions establishing a policy and specifications for the placement of roadside memorials within county rights of way of public, county maintained roadways: providing for effective date. Ms. Hines gave a few different options the first option is for the county to maintain the status quo and to do nothing. The first resolution option (Option 1) is to restrict the ground size of a roadside memorial. She detailed other restriction as they pertain to request, location, length of time and county maintenance. The second resolution option (Option 2) would restrict memorial to be a uniformly inscribed "Drive Safely" sign post constructed and installed by County Road and Bridge staff, with all other detailed restriction being the same. There was much discussion about whether policing would be an added and or necessary cost to the county vs setting standard restrictions to help alleviate memorials that could potentially become safety concerns for the county.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gross, seconded by Commissioner Hickox, that this Resolution (option 1) be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Passed 3:2
Schaefer Aye
Langford Nay

Deriso Nay

A Motion was made by Commissioner Gross, Seconded by Commissioner Langford for reconsideration , The motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Commissioner Gross, seconded by Commissioner Langford to take no action on either resolution/roadside markers and maintain the status quo . The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Langford, and Gross

Nay: Schaefer, and Hickox

13. Resolution / Executive Office of the Governor DOGE Efforts.

Attachments: [DOGE reso - tc](#)
 [Desantis DOGE EO 2025](#)

Mandy Hines request approval to adopt a Resolution supporting the EOG DOGE Team's efforts to identify unnecessary spending, creating efficiencies, and saving taxpayer dollars when possible.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schaefer, seconded by Commissioner Hickox, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

Enactment No: 2025-034

EMERGENCY ITEM

14. Purchase of a 2025 Pierce 3,000 gallon Tender/Tanker Truck

Attachments: [Ten8 Tender Quote](#)

Chad Jorgensen presents a request of approval for a Purchase Order for the purchase of a 2025 Pierce 3,000 gallon Tender/Tanker Truck to replace a 1998 2,000 gallon tanker. There was further discussion as to the use of the replaced tanker, as well as the need to expedite the request for approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schaefer, seconded by Commissioner Gross, that this Proclamation be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Many Hines advised the board in regards to the City of Acradia Airport tree removal cut back as required the the FAA to remove any obstructions. The FDOT on behave of the FAA, has identified a county owned lot on Maple Street that will be impacted. There will be 4 trees removed and replaced with 3 medium sized trees. Ms. Hines recommendation is to respond to the City and allow for the removal and replacement of the trees. She is asking for approval from the board to move forward and notify the City. Commissioner Deriso did mention for full transparency that the company he works for is working on the project of removing the trees. He and the other commissioners all agree with the decision to move forward and contact the City. Ms. Hines also updated the board on the progress of Fire Station 1, engineering design and cost estimates should be available in two weeks. Once the estimates are received a recommendation will be brought to the board for approval to proceed.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Schaefer thanked the staff for everything they do, she congratulated, Ms. Hines on her Daughter's recent graduation with Honors from Nursing School. Commissioner Hickox thanked the staff for all their hard work, he questioned if the county burn ban was still in effect since our recent rainfall. Ms. Hines stated that the burn ban is still in effect. He stated he attended the FDOT meeting regarding RT 17 and CR 761 project, they plan on moving forward with Plan A to add reflector signs to stop traffic. He commented how he is not in favor of this plan, there was further discussion on how to expedite the process with FDOT to make this intersection safer. Commissioner Langford read a quote about the overwhelming growth and over development in Florida. Commissioner Gross thanked the staff as well as the Sheriff in recognition of National Police Week. He thanked the community for a successful prom for the Desoto County High School seniors. He also stated that he recently has had a few calls on drainage issues on certain roads and would like to budget to have these areas worked on prior to the rainy season. Chairman Deriso thanked the staff for all they do. He was also excited to mention his 17 year old son qualified for the State High School Rodeo Finals in Wyoming .

SUPPLEMENTAL BOARD DOCUMENTS**15. Board Documents 05-13-2025 BOCC Public Meeting**

Attachments: [05-13-2025 BOCC Meeting Speaker Cards](#)
[DeSoto County Mills Complex powerpoint](#)

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the board, Chairman Deriso adjourned the meeting at 10:40AM.

ATTEST:
COMMISSIONERS

BOARD OF COUNTY
DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

MANDY HINES
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

J.C. DERISO
CHAIRMAN

NOTE: For quasi-judicial matters, any party desiring a verbatim record of the proceeding of this hearing for the purpose of an appeal is advised to make private arrangements for the production of a record and anyone wishing to present documents or other written evidence to the Board must provide eight (8) copies of the written material . If special accommodations are required in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals should contact the County Administrator's Office by calling 863-993-4800 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing.